Opening of Qutab Minar for Public

1775. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Qutab Minar, the heritage site, was to be opened for the public in July this year;

(b) if so, whether the monument has since been opened for public;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) A decision has been taken to open the first floor of Qutab Minar to public by the end of Sept, after completing the repair works now in progress and after making requisite security arrangements.

Joint Tourism Project for A.P., Kerala and Rajasthan

1776. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a joint tourism project for travel along Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan to attract foreign and domestic tourists;

(b) whether the connectivity by rail and air is proposed to attract tourist in those States; and

(c) the other measures taken to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No such proposal is under consideration in the Department of Tourism of Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) the Department of Tourism has formulated following short-term and long-term strategy to attract foreign tourists:—

> position India as a global brand;

> position India as an attractive destination in overseas markets through targeted publicity and promotion campaign;